

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Peled, *et al.* CONFIRMATION NO.: 9770

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/774,843 EXAMINER: Maria Gomez Leavitt

FILING DATE: February 9, 2004 ART UNIT: 1633

TITLE: EXPANSION OF RENEWABLE STEM CELL POPULATIONS

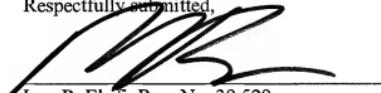
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b)**

Applicants submit a statement of the substance of the telephonic interview held between Matthew Pavao and Examiner Maria Leavitt on July 17 2009. During this interview, the Examiner and Matthew Pavao discussed the rejection of claims 401, 411, 412, 414, 416-419, 422-424, 462, 464-467, and 469-481 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Brown and Block, *et al.* The following issues were discussed: the criticality of concentration range of nicotinamide in the culture medium in the invention that inhibits differentiation of the claimed stem cell population while simultaneously allowing proliferation; the fact that Brown cultures the cells in a serum-free medium to prevent the differentiation of CD34<sup>+</sup> cells, while the instant invention uses culture medium with serum and adds nicotinamide to inhibit differentiation; and the use of hepatic cells in the disclosure of Block, which is a different cell line from the claimed stem cell population, requiring specific growth components in the culture medium for proliferation, thus making unobvious the use of the same culture formulation for *ex vivo* culture and expansion (e.g., proliferation) of a different cell type, CD34<sup>+</sup> hematopoietic stem cells.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 24024-505 CON. If there are any questions regarding this Statement, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: July 24, 2009

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